

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title as follows:

~~SYSTEM AND~~ METHOD FOR TRACKING AND CONTROLLING INFECTIONS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following heading and paragraph immediately after the title and before the BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION on page 1 of the Specification:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation patent application of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/073,256, filed February 13, 2002, now pending, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/656,084, filed September 6, 2000, now pending, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein in their entirety by express reference thereto.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-50. (Canceled)

51. (New) A method for identifying a subspecies of *Staphylococcus aureus*, the method comprising:

- obtaining a sample of a microorganism;
- sequencing a first region of a nucleic acid from the microorganism sample;
- comparing the first sequenced region with historical sequence data stored in a database, the historical sequence data comprising at least one *Staphylococcus aureus* sequence region; and

- determining a measure of phylogenetic relatedness between the microorganism sample and a plurality of historical samples stored in the database,

- wherein the at least one *Staphylococcus aureus* sequence region further comprises a forward primer upstream of the sequence and a reverse primer downstream of the sequence, and the forward primer and the reverse primer permit identification of a region of variable number tandem repeats.